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United States Attorney's Office – *Northern District of Indiana*



G.A.I.N.

GANG ACTIVITY INFORMATION NETWORK



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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Gang Violence Rising in Indiana

Article published in the Indianapolis Star

09/13/2006 Indianapolis, IN | Indiana's gang problem, fueled by home-grown imitators and an influx of Hispanic gangs, is growing worse, according to a State Police expert.

It is impossible to know exactly how many gang members or even gangs are at play in Indianapolis, according to a leader with Marion County's Safe Streets Gang Task Force.

The thorniest problems, said Marion County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Leo George, are from hybrid gangs, locally sprouted groups that mimic larger gangs. They borrow symbols and methods from major gangs but have no real ties to them, he said.

"Unfortunately, they are worse than your true, hard-core gang members," George said.



The national groups operate more like an organized crime syndicate, George said, avoiding violence because it draws police attention. But to imitators, violence is the path to respect and credibility.

Unable to accurately track gangs on the streets, authorities monitor them in prison. In 2002, Indiana's Department of Correction reported that 19 percent of its 21,000 inmates had gang ties. Marion County officials do not track which jail inmates are gang members, according to a study by the National Major Gang Task Force.

"The problem is increasing," said Indiana State Police Lt. Rubin Marte, a State Police gang expert who was among the speakers at the conference. "We're dealing with a problem that is not only home-grown but coming in from other states."

Hispanic street gangs also are moving into the area, Marte said. Those gangs drew local attention after the fatal shooting of Juan Luis Espinoza on the Eastside in February 2005. Police said Espinoza was shot by a member of the Sur 13 gang, a group that is active in Los Angeles.

See the Full Story:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006609130463>

www.keepingourcommunitiessafe.us



Cops: 'Goon' Busted in Student Beatings

Article published by the Times

09/30/2006 Hammond, IN | Police arrested four Morton High School students Friday morning in connection with a pair of beatings last week which sent two classmates to the hospital.

The sophomore and three juniors were taken into custody at the school shortly after 9 a.m. and held on juvenile battery charges stemming from post-football game attacks in the Hessville neighborhood. The beatings which left one student with a broken jaw and another with a broken nose.

The four teens arrested were placed on immediate 10-day suspension pending an expulsion hearing, which is school district policy regarding battery to a student or threat to harm a student.

The boy was walking home with friends after the Morton-Munster football game when another student punched him in the face without warning near the intersection of Martha Street and Colorado Avenue, then took off running, police said.

Witnesses to the incidents and other students interviewed by police described a group of students calling themselves "Goon Squad," who sought to emulate the swagger and casual violence of the idealized representations of street gangs depicted in popular entertainment media.

The two students injured Sept. 22 were apparently the random targets of a group "game" they called, "Point 'em out and knock 'em down," in which a chosen victim would be blind-sided with a punch to the face in an attempt to knock him to the ground, police said.

If the first assailant failed to knock the target down, police said another participant would take a shot, with status within the group determined by the number of "knockdowns."

Full Story: http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/09/30/news/top_news/595e5ddfc62923f862571f80080e2de.txt



Chinese Gang Member Arrested in Carthage

Article published by The Boston Globe

09/01/2006 Carthage, IL | A tip from the FBI in New York City has led to the arrest of a Chinese street gang member in Hancock County, Illinois.

Authorities say 23-year-old Jin Cheng Chen was arrested on a federal warrant in Carthage after police found him working at the Taste of China restaurant.

The warrant says Chen was in charge of the Yi Ging's street gang's gambling operation in New York.

Jin Cheng Chen, the alleged organized-crime boss wanted by federal and state authorities, stayed incognito for months in Carthage, where he was eventually caught.

Around this small town of 2,500 residents, organized crime is something usually seen only in the movies. On Sept. 9, 2005, Chen, now 23, was charged along with 38 other Chinese Americans on multiple racketeering counts.

After an extensive investigation by the FBI, working in collaboration with New York City Police Department and other agencies, federal prosecutors in Manhattan filed an 82-page indictment against Chen. It is alleged that Chen was part of **Yi Ging**, a violent gang whose enterprises included trafficking narcotics, selling pirated CDs and DVDs, laundering money and tampering with witnesses.

Police Arrest Suspected Gang Leader

Article published by the Herald and Review

09/06/2006 Decatur, IL | A man police describe as the violent leader of a Decatur street gang involved in drug sales has been arrested.



Sworn police statements said the 22-year-old suspect was taken into custody just before midnight Friday following a brief foot chase after a traffic stop near the 500 block of East Leafland Street. During the chase, the suspect allegedly discarded a .40-caliber pistol, which pursuing officers recovered.

The Decatur man is being held in the Macon County Jail on preliminary charges of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and possession of a firearm by a felon and two counts of resisting police. He is due to be arraigned Friday.

The police wrote a letter to the court following the suspect's arrest and asked a judge to require "a substantial bond" because the suspect is "an armed career criminal and menace to society." The letter continued: "(He) has been identified as the leader of the Leafland Street Boys, a local street gang involved in the sale of narcotics."

The letter said the suspect had access to large amounts of cash from drug sales and had made threats to harm police officers and also said he knew what kind of cars officers drove and where they lived. The letter said he had boasted "the system could not hold him as he would immediately post bond and make his money back in a day." The suspect's bond had been set at \$50,000.

Full Story: http://www.herald-review.com/articles/2006/09/06/news/local_news/1017486.txt



Agencies Launch Offensive vs. Gang-Connected Graffiti

Article published by the Beacon News

09/24/2006 Chicago, IL | Randy Risvold remembers the good old days when graffiti was a now-and-then occurrence. Now it's an every day curse that Risvold, who is the neighborhood program coordinator with Aurora's division of neighborhood standards, is fighting to conquer.

"Last year, we had over 600 reports of graffiti for the entire year," Risvold said during a Graffiti Roundtable hosted by the Fox Valley Park District at Prisco Community Center. "This year, we are over 700 right now."

Jack Smilanic, dean of students for Waubonsie Valley High School, said the school has had problems with graffiti both inside and outside the building. "When we catch a student, it's a combination of police involvement, arrest, a 10-day suspension from school and possible expulsion," Smilanic said.

Carmen Cabrel, freshman dean at East Aurora High School, said students who are caught tagging at school also face arrest and a 10-day suspension. In both cases, an Aurora police officer will make contact with the child's parents, sometimes even asking to search the student's room for clues of gang involvement.

"All graffiti is a crime and in some cases may be a felony," said Sgt. Rick Robertson with the Aurora Police Department's Special Operations Group. "Graffiti is a great indicator of what's going on. There are a lot of hidden symbols in graffiti. Sometimes we can piece those symbols together with what we are hearing from the streets. Photos provide a lot of intelligence for us," Robertson said.

Twenty people representing schools, Fox Valley Park District police, Aurora and North Aurora police, the Kane County sheriff, city of Aurora and Quad County Urban League agreed that funds from the Weed & Seed program might be used as rewards for arrest and conviction of those committing the crime. Weed and Seed is a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice that aims to prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity.

Full Story: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/69090,2_1_AU24_GRAFFITI_S1.article

First MS-13 Trial to Reveal Hierarchy

Article published by the Washington Post

09/25/2006 Greenbelt, MD | Law enforcement officials say the MS-13 street gang has wreaked violent havoc in parts of Prince George's and Montgomery counties, committing murders, assaults, rapes and robberies as part of a coldly calculated criminal conspiracy.

Starting this week in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, federal prosecutors will get the chance to prove it. Opening statements are scheduled to begin tomorrow morning as the first two alleged members of MS-13 charged with racketeering in Maryland go on trial.



Twenty-two alleged members were indicted on the federal racketeering charges, and three have pleaded guilty to related charges. Prosecutors have filed papers saying they are seeking the death penalty against nine of the remaining 19 defendants.

The sweeping indictment accuses the gang of six homicides and four attempted homicides between April 2003 and June 2005. Eight were in Prince George's and the others in Montgomery.

MS-13, also known as Mara Salvatrucha, is far more structured than typical neighborhood street gangs, federal prosecutors say. In a superseding indictment handed up last week, prosecutors allege that MS-13 operates in 10 states and in the District as well as in El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico and has 10,000 members.

In Prince George's and Montgomery, MS-13 members have conspired to commit rape, kidnapping, robbery and obstruction of justice by attacking or intimidating witnesses, the indictment alleges..

Prosecutors have not yet been explicit about the gang's hierarchy and how it operates. That will change during the trial when prosecutors present their evidence, Maryland U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said. To obtain convictions under the federal RICO law -- originally written to target Mafia groups -- prosecutors must show that the crimes committed by MS-13 members were part of an ongoing criminal enterprise, rather than isolated, unrelated acts.

Full Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/24/AR2006092401016.html>



Violent Gang

Article published by the Brownsville Herald

09/08/2006 Brownsville, TX | Brownsville researcher Susan Ritter hopes her work on the Mara Salvatrucha gang will help law enforcement do its jobs.

"It began as a juvenile gang, but what I sense is that this gang has matured, and we now have to deal with the adult element of what was once a juvenile gang," Ritter said of the Maras.

The gang originated in Los Angeles in the 1980s following a mass migration as the result of a civil war in El Salvador in which more than 100,000 people were killed. The 1 million people who fled the country headed to Washington, D.C., Boston, New York and Los Angeles, areas that currently have the largest MS-13 populations, she said during her presentation.

Full Story: http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts_comments.php?id=72619_0_10_0_C

Twenty Arrested in Anti-Gang Crackdown at Arlington Heights High

Article published by the Bradenton Herald

09/27/2006 Fort Worth, TX | Police arrested 20 young people outside Arlington Heights High School on Wednesday, part of an escalation in the department's zero tolerance toward gangs in schools.

"This stuff has gotten out of control lately and it needs to stop," Fort Worth gang Sgt. Bill Beall said. Gang members who cause trouble at school should get used to this treatment, he said. "We've seen too many incidents like this already this year."



Fort Worth school district officials say they will step up their anti-gang efforts as well. They've already discussed closing campuses at lunch and will now consider banning cell phones because text messaging is being used to promote fighting.

Wednesday's incident occurred about 1:30 p.m. when a group of young people gathered outside and prepared to "square off," Beall said. The school resource officer saw them and requested additional officers. The teens were ordered to the ground, handcuffed and lined up on the curb in the east parking lot.

The group — four adults and 16 juveniles — were arrested on suspicion of inciting a riot, said Lt. Dean Sullivan, a police spokesman. The person who is believed to have started the disturbance is not a student at the school.

In response, police will react swiftly and strongly to any gang activity reported in schools, Beall said. The city created the zero tolerance policy in the 1990s to clamp down on violence in high-crime areas.

"If we get here and you're doing something illegal, you're going to jail," Beall said, standing outside Arlington Heights. "Most of the kids are here to learn. They shouldn't have to worry about gangs and fighting."

Full Story: <http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/nation/15623415.htm>



First Arrests Made in Safety Zone

Article published by the Times Record News

09/08/2006 Wichita Falls, TX | Three members of the Varrio Carnales, or VC, street gang have been arrested by the Wichita Falls Police Department in two separate incidents, thanks to the new gang injunction barring them from certain activities in the "(VC) Safety Zone No. 1."

On Wednesday around 5 p.m., according to a probable cause affidavit, two WFPD officers stopped Mario Rico Martinez, 17, 1037 Westerly Place, as he was walking in the 1300 block of Kemp Boulevard. Martinez was wearing black and white clothing and had a black bandana hanging out of his back pants pocket.

The affidavit gave the following account: One of the officers asked Martinez what the colors meant, and Martinez told him they were his gang colors. The officer recognized Martinez as having been one of about 21 members of VC who had been served with the injunction papers last week.

Martinez was arrested and was charged with violation of court order enjoining in organized criminal activity, a misdemeanor offense. Martinez was transported to the Wichita County Jail Wednesday evening and was being held Thursday on a \$5,000 bond.

The gang injunction states that any VC gang member served with the injunction and seen wearing clothing that identifies him as a member of the gang in the safety zone is in violation of the order.

The Safety Zone covers an area of roughly 1.5 miles and was chosen by District Attorney Barry Macha and City Attorney Bill Sullivan because of about 25 of gang related incidents in the last year. The gang members named in the injunction have been involved in those incidents, ranging from criminal mischief to murder.

Full Story: http://timesrecordnews.com/trn/local_news/article/0,18

Feds Arrest 22 High-level Crips Members

Article published by ABC 6 News

09/13/2006 Newark, NJ | Capping a yearlong investigation into drug and weapons dealing in Essex County, federal authorities arrested 22 members of the Crips street gang Wednesday morning, and said many of them were high-level members. Two others also were charged, but had not been captured as of Wednesday afternoon.



"These are upper-echelon guys, not just street dealers," said Steven Siegel, a spokesman for the FBI's Newark office.

The suspects were arrested in Newark, Irvington and East Orange, and face charges including possession with intent to distribute heroin, crack cocaine and ecstasy. Several also were charged with illegal sales of weapons, including assault rifles.

The 24 gang members are part of loosely affiliated Crips factions in East Orange, Newark, and the Crescent Lane Housing Projects in Irvington, which includes sets known as "Grape Street," "Rolling 60s" and "Hoover 5-2." More than 100 federal and local agents, including an FBI SWAT team, participated in the early morning street gang arrests.

They seized approximately half a kilo of crack cocaine, 500 ecstasy pills, small amounts of heroin, \$8,500 in cash and 16 guns.

Full Story: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/104-09132006-711835.html>



Queens Crew Tied to Crips Hid Drugs in Toys

Article published by Policeone.com

09/15/2006 New York, NY | A crew controlled by an offshoot of the notorious Crips street gang made \$1 million a year dealing narcotics in and around a cluster of housing projects, sometimes delivering drugs hidden in toy cars and trucks, authorities said Thursday.

An eight-month undercover investigation resulted in charges against 96 people, half of them residents of the housing complexes in Queens. Police had arrested 81 of the suspects; the rest were being sought.

The investigation revealed that the dealers sometimes delivered drugs concealed in the battery compartments of remote-controlled toy cars and trucks, police said. In one instance, a child was used to take drugs to an undercover officer; other times suspects did transactions on school playgrounds.

Prosecutors said several of the suspects were affiliated with the Crips, including one who was charged with shooting and killing a 15-year-old in 2005. They said local Crips crews, known as sets, have proliferated throughout the city's five boroughs.

Authorities consider the investigation "a direct attack on the gang problem in the city," Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said at a news conference. Police launched the probe earlier this year after receiving complaints from residents about the entrenched drug trade.

At one massive complex where 3,369 people live in 1,394 apartments, undercover police narcotics and gang squads made more than 200 purchases of cocaine, heroin and marijuana. They later seized more than 10 pounds of cocaine, several thousand dollars in cash and four guns, including a loaded assault weapon.

The suspects were named in 29 indictments charging them with multiple felony counts of criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, some could face up to 20 years in prison.

Full Story: <http://www.policeone.com/gangs/articles/1035635/>

Gang Investigators Seize Weapons, Computers, Card

Article published by the Orlando Sentinel

09/22/2006 Tampa, FL | Detectives investigating the Latin Kings gang sold members drugs and guns and may have turned up plans of insurance scams and a weapons training camp, newly released documents show. They also found a signed Christmas card from the gang's former leader in New York, King Tone.

Tampa police had watched the gang for months before the disciplinary "trial" and beating of a former gang leader in Tampa, Alexander Perez Valdez, led to the arrests of some of the gang's leadership.

Within days, police and federal agents received authority to search for rosters, membership applications, letters and other items that would reveal the gang's activities in Florida, the documents show.

An initial search of the home of Michael Victor Lugo, one of the men suspected of beating Valdez, also turned up possible evidence of insurance fraud, according to the documents released Thursday.

Those documents include requests for search warrants and generic descriptions of some of the items seized. The seized items include guns, clothing and numerous documents and computers that may have been used for the gang's criminal activities.



For months before Valdez's beating, detectives worked to monitor and infiltrate the gang. Their investigation included selling the gang drugs and guns, including high-powered weapons, Tampa police Sgt. Kenny Norris said.

Authorities have said information obtained after Valdez's beating May 20 led to a bust of the Latin King's Florida leadership on Aug. 20. Thirty-nine members of the gang were arrested then and charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering - charges that have since been leveled against Lugo.

Lugo has been named as the leader of the Latin Kings in Florida. A search of his house during his arrest led investigators to seek a broader search warrant. The application included statements by an Orange County sheriff's deputy that he saw documents pointing to plans for a Latin Kings weapons training camp and insurance scams.

Full Story: <http://www.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBC68E1ESE.html>



Producer of DVD Showing Gang Members Ordered to Trial

Article published by the Mercury News

09/22/2006 Fresno, CA | A producer of a video portraying gang life was ordered to stand trial on two felony weapons charges.

Lonnell "Nitti" Greene, 29, helped produce "Fresno Uncensored," a 91-minute DVD released locally last year that showed gun-toting gang members mocking police, growing marijuana and showing off gang tattoos.



"A great percentage of the video contains criminal acts," Fresno police detective Ron Flowers testified Thursday in Fresno County Superior Court.

Officers said Greene supplied gang members with two assault weapons for use in the DVD.

Greene and his business associate, Marshall Day, said they made it strictly for entertainment and to showcase local hip-hop artists. There was no intent to promote gangs or violence, though the DVD did show gang members, they said.

Greene faces up to eight years in prison if convicted on the weapons charges with gang enhancements. He was being held in county jail Friday in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

Full Story:

http://www.mercurynews.com/mlf/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern_california/15585682.htm

The Hyphy Movement (*Wikipedia*)

Hyphy is a style of music and dance primarily associated with the San Francisco Bay Area hip hop culture. It began to emerge in early 2000 as a response from Bay Area rappers against commercial hip hop for not acknowledging the Bay for setting trends in the hip hop industry. Although the "hyphy movement" has just recently seen light in mainstream America, it has been a long standing and evolving culture in the Bay Area. Bay Area rapper Keak Da Sneak takes credit for coining the term when he was a young boy, as his mother would often tell him he was hyper. He would repeat the word "hyper" as "hyphy", and to this day, continues to use the word "hyphy" to describe his behavior.



It is distinguished by gritty, pounding rhythms, and in this sense can be associated with the Bay as crunk music is to the South. Contrary to popular belief, the musical aspect of the movement has very few similarities to crunk music, as it is dictated by more uptempo beats. An individual is said to "get hyphy" when they act or dance in an overstated and ridiculous manner. Many in the Bay Area would describe this as acting "Retarded", "Riding The Yellow Bus", "Stupid" or "Going Dumb". E-40 is seen by many in the Bay Area as the "door opener" to a much bigger movement yet to be exposed to the world in its entirety.

A particular feature of hyphy culture in the Bay Area are sideshows or sydeshows, when one or a series of cars do multiple doughnuts in their car by braking and turning at high speeds. Other car maneuvers include "Yoking" and "Ghostriding". **Hyphy culture, like much of rap culture, also endorses the heavy usage of alcohol, marijuana and ecstasy.** In particular, the influence of ecstasy is emphasized through hyphy's heavy sexual proclivities. Dancing and partying are important aspects of hyphy culture, though it is not necessary to be on drugs or alcohol to do so.



See Hyphy slang and other identifiers: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyphy>

GANGINFO LISTSERV

A Listserv mailing list designed to discuss the study, suppression, intervention, and prevention of youth gang crime. practitioners, researchers, law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, social workers, youth agency workers, and others with an interest in youth gangs may join GANGINFO. People on GANGINFO discuss: how to identify and counter gang crime; gang identification and activity (not police intelligence); intervening with gang-involved and at-risk youth; gang prevention; victims of gang crime; research, education and training; and new gang literature.



For more information on the GANGINFO LISTSERV please visit: <http://www.iir.com/nygc/GangInfo.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.
We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products

If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the "G.A.I.N." Newsletter please send them to:

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From the Editors ★

